

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 479
By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to honor Jeffry A. Cozzens for excellence both in the education of Tennessee's youth and in service to his country.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers and principals who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens is one such estimable educator who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens was born in Victoria, Texas, on August 29, 1959, to Charles and Martha Cozzens, who, from the beginning of his life, instilled in Jeffry the value of education, the nobility of the teaching profession, and the importance of serving one's country; and

WHEREAS, his parents, in their military and community service, demonstrated the high value they placed on the importance of education and service, perhaps influencing Jeffry to embrace a lifelong love of learning; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens devoted himself early on to increasing his personal knowledge and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Collierville High School, he furthered his preparation for a career in which he has enlightened and inspired more than 5,000 young minds by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin; he has since earned his Master of Education degree at the University of Memphis, completed thirty additional graduate hours, and begun work on his Doctorate; and

WHEREAS, freshly graduated from college, Mr. Cozzens accepted a teaching position at Germantown High School as the Band Director; he has served as Band Director for a total of 13 years, including exemplary tenures at Shadowland Middle School, Houston Middle School, and Houston High School; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Jeffry Cozzens was promoted to Curriculum Coordinator at Germantown Middle School, and in 1999, he was named Principal at Woodstock Middle School, in which position he continues to serve with acumen and alacrity after 21 remarkable years in the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cozzens is active in his school's community, regularly making house visits to foster lasting and memorable relationships with parents and students; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate his teachers and his students; and

WHEREAS, an invaluable contributor to his profession, Mr. Cozzens is a member of the Shelby County Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the National Education Association; he is highly respected as a leader of the utmost ability and merit; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, in the midst of his teaching career, Jeffry Cozzens joined the Tennessee National Guard; completing Officer Candidate School at the Tennessee Military Academy in 1988, he served in the 3-115 Field Artillery Battalion in Memphis, eventually becoming the Commander of Battery B; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cozzens would later return to the Tennessee Military Academy, first as a Training Officer and later as an Instructor in the program; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens' dedication and hard work have certainly paid off; currently holding the rank of Major, he serves as the Commander of the Tennessee Officer Candidate School; and

WHEREAS, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Major Cozzens has served as Commander of the Federal Officer Candidate School at Fort McClelland, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry Cozzens truly serves as an inspiration to his many colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; as such, it surprised no one, but deeply affected many, when this patriotic American shared his feelings regarding the immense respect and reverence that should be paid to the American flag, regardless of one's personal political beliefs, because all Americans benefit from living in this great country; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Cozzens is devoted to the highest ideals of family and community; he is most thankful for the great love and companionship he shares with his wife, Cathy Cozzens, who shares his passion for teaching and inspiring young people, as she is a professional educator at Elmore Park Middle School; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry A. Cozzens is the proud and loving father of two daughters, Katie and Kristen, both of whom are honors students at Bartlett High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cozzens and his family are active members of Sycamore View Church of Christ, where they worship and serve; and

WHEREAS, Jeffry A. Cozzens truly epitomizes the model of the dedicated soldier, teacher, and principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of patriotism, public service, and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized by this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Jeffry A. Cozzens for 21 years of unsurpassed excellence in education, commend his exceptional service to the youth of Shelby County and Tennessee as a Band Director, Curriculum Coordinator, and Principal, and salute his patriotism and dedication to the Tennessee Army National Guard as we recognize his professional expertise, remarkable diligence, and devotion, wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.